

CLAIMS

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2 **1.** A method, comprising:
3 retrieving software update information from component memory of a
4 printing device replaceable component;
5 validating authority to download a software update identified by the
6 software update information; and
7 upon validation, facilitating a download of the software update utilizing
8 the software update information from the component memory.

9
10 **2.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the validating further
11 comprises producing a user prompt requesting authorization to download the
12 software update and validating that authority has been granted to download the
13 software update if the user responds in the affirmative to the user prompt.

14
15 **3.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the validating further
16 comprises determining if a verification indicator is set in memory of the
17 printing device and validating that authority has been granted to download the
18 software update if the verification indicator is set.

19
20 **4.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the validating further
21 comprises determining if a verification indicator is set in memory of a host
22 computer connected to the printing device and validating that authority has
23 been granted to download the software update if the verification indicator is
24 set.
25

1 **5.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the validating further
2 comprises accessing a remote site and determining if a verification indicator is
3 set at the remote site and validating that authority has been granted to
4 download the software update if the verification indicator is set.

5
6 **6.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the authority to
7 download the software update is provided at the time the printing device is
8 installed.

9
10 **7.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
11 comprises downloading the software update from the component memory.

12
13 **8.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
14 comprises accessing a pointer in the software update information and accessing
15 a site referenced by the pointer to locate and download the software update.

16
17 **9.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
18 comprises accessing a telephone number of a remote access site in the software
19 information and utilizing the telephone number to locate and download the
20 software update.

21
22 **10.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
23 comprises accessing a telephone number of a vendor site in the software
24 information and facilitating display of the telephone number to a printing
25 device user, wherein the user can call the telephone number to order the
software update.

1 **11.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
2 comprises accessing a universal resource locator (URL) in the software
3 information and facilitating display of the URL to a printing device user,
4 wherein the user can manually access the URL to order the software update.
5

6 **12.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating further
7 comprises accessing a printable form using the software information and
8 causing the form to be printed on the printing device, wherein the user can
9 complete the form and send it to a vendor to order the software update.
10

11 **13.** A printing device, comprising:
12 a replaceable component;
13 component memory integrated into the replaceable component; and
14 software update information stored in the component memory, the
15 software update information including information to determine if there is an
16 update available for the printing device and for initiating a software update
17 upon authorization from a printing device user.
18

19 **14.** The printing device as recited in claim 13, wherein the software
20 update information for initiating a software update further comprises means to
21 display a message to the user that indicates how the user can obtain the
22 software update.
23
24
25

1 **15.** The printing device as recited in claim 13, wherein the software
2 update information for initiating a software update further comprises a pointer
3 to an Internet site that may be provided to a browser of a host computer
4 connected to the printing device so that the host computer can access the
5 pointer and download the software update from the site.

6
7 **16.** The printing device as recited in claim 13, wherein the software
8 update information for initiating a software update further comprises a pointer
9 that may be provided to an embedded web server in the printing device so that
10 the printing device can access the pointer and download the software update
11 from the site.

12
13 **17.** The printing device as recited in claim 13, wherein the printing
14 device is a laser printer and the replaceable component is a toner cartridge.

15
16 **18.** The printing device as recited in claim 13, wherein the printing
17 device is an inkjet printer and the replaceable component is an ink cartridge.

18
19 **19.** A toner cartridge for a laser printer, comprising:
20 a housing;
21 a toner reservoir;
22 a memory tag; and
23 software update information stored in the memory tag that is retrieved
24 by the laser printer and utilized to update software on the laser printer after
25 obtaining authorization from a laser printer user.

1 **20.** The toner cartridge as recited in claim 19, wherein the software
2 update information is utilized to update software in a host computer connected
3 to the laser printer.

4
5 **21.** The toner cartridge as recited in claim 19, wherein the memory
6 tag is a radio frequency identification (RFID) memory tag.

7
8 **22.** The toner cartridge as recited in claim 19, the software update
9 information including a version number that indicates the latest version of
10 software available for the laser printer and a pointer to a location that stores the
11 latest version of the software available for the laser printer.